



State of Tennessee Department of Children's Services

## **Administrative Policies and Procedures: 16.19**

**Subject: Abuse Allegations In Department of Children's Services Foster Homes**

**Supersedes:** DCS 16.19, 07/01/02

**Local Policy:** No

**Local Procedures:** No

**Training Required:** No

**Applicable Practice Model Standard(s):** Yes

**Approved by:**

**Effective date:** 07/01/00

**Revision date:** 01/01/04

### **Application**

To All Department of Children's Services Case Managers and Children Placed in Family Foster Homes.

**Authority:** TCA 37-5-106

### **Policy**

Any allegation of abuse or neglect in a Department of Children's Services approved foster home shall be investigated according to the current Child Protective Services policies.

### **Procedures**

**A. Allegations of abuse and/or neglect**

Any allegation of abuse or neglect in a DCS-approved foster home shall be investigated according to CPS policies [14.2, Child Protective Services Intake Decisions](#) and [14.3, Screening, Assignment and Response Priority of CPS Cases](#). Also, see CPS policy [14.18, Investigating Abuse Involving Foster Parent as Perpetrators](#), for information related to foster parents.

**B. Communication**

1. When a referral of possible abuse in a DCS foster or pre-adoptive home is received, Child Protective Services staff will notify all Case Managers working with children in the

identified foster or pre-adoptive home, Resource Management, Quality Assurance and Foster Parent Support. (In the event that there is a referral related to an agency foster home the agency must also be notified.)

2. Until the allegation is screened out or the investigation indicates unfounded abuse, Resource Management will freeze placements in the home. It may also be determined that children/youth need to be removed for reasons of safety. See DCS policy [14.18, Investigating Abuse and Neglect Involving Foster Parents as Perpetrators](#)

**C. Corrective action plan for inappropriate discipline or minor physical abuse**

1. If the CPS investigation finds that the allegation involved an incident of inappropriate discipline or minor physical abuse, the Foster Parent Support Case Manager may elect to develop a corrective action plan with the foster parents and leave the child in placement.
2. Foster homes in this situation will be expected to comply with a corrective action plan, which clearly defines the parameters of the acceptable discipline practice and the remediation necessary to restore the foster home to good standing.
3. The foster home will be allowed no new placements until the corrective action plan is completed and the home is re-evaluated.

**D. Child abuse**

1. Any foster home found to have abused a child according to CPS policy, shall be subject to the removal of the children and the immediate closure of the foster home.
2. A foster home is entitled to due process under CPS policy and also to supervisory review per foster care policy.

**E. Advocacy program**

Foster parents undergoing CPS investigation must consult with the Foster Care Advocate assigned to their region. Please see DCS policy [16.18, Tennessee Foster Care Advocacy Program](#) for additional information.

**F. Documentation of foster home record**

The results of the CPS investigation of a foster home shall be documented and closed according to CPS policy and procedure. In addition, the results of the investigation and the corrective action plans shall become a part of the foster home record and the subsequent reassessment of the foster home.

## **Forms**

None

## **Collateral Documents**

*Child Protective Services Risk-Oriented Case Management Manual*

## **Standards**

DCS Practice Model Standard - 5-100

DCS Practice Model Standard - 5-101

DCS Practice Model Standard – 7-200A